

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Poland	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	1. Diphtheria Epidemic 2. Rumors of Currency Devaluation 3. Impending Trial of Smugglers in Szczecin	DATE DISTR.	4 March 1954
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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE:

1. An epidemic of diphtheria broke out a few days before Christmas in the Polish ports and in some areas of the interior. There were many deaths because the vaccines possessed by the hospitals had deteriorated and the locally produced vaccines were ineffective. The regime has forbidden the press to make any mention of this epidemic.
2. There are many rumors circulating in Poland that the Polish currency will be devaluated in the near future. American dollars and other foreign currency have disappeared from the black market.
3. The Poles who were arrested in November 1953 for engaging in smuggling dollars and watches, i.e. about 30 sailors, eight women and ten clerks, will be brought to trial in the near future in Szczecin. The director of the personnel section of the Polish Steamship Co. in Szczecin, Kurylek (fnu), has also been implicated in this clandestine traffic and has been officially dismissed from his job and arrested.

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